

**Introduced by Senator Ridley-Thomas**February 23, 2007

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An act to amend Section 2146 of the Elections Code, relating to voter registration.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 854, as introduced, Ridley-Thomas. Voter registration: students. Existing law requires the Secretary of State to annually provide secondary education and specified post-secondary education campuses with a number of voter registration forms that is consistent with the number of students enrolled at each school. The Secretary of State is required to provide written notice with each form, instructing students regarding voter eligibility and where to file the completed forms.

This bill would allow students to submit completed voter registration forms to the Secretary of State in addition to returning the forms in person or by mail to the elections official of the county in which the student resides. The bill also would require the Secretary of State to annually submit to the Legislature, on or before January 1 of each year, a report on its student voter registration efforts, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2146 of the Elections Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 2146. (a) The Secretary of State shall annually provide every
- 4 high school, community college, and California State University
- 5 and University of California campus with voter registration forms.

1 The number of forms shall be consistent with the number of  
2 students enrolled at each school who are of voting age or will be  
3 of voting age by the end of the year. The Secretary of State shall  
4 provide additional forms to any school, free of charge, if so  
5 requested by a school.

6 (b) The Secretary of State shall provide a written notice with  
7 each registration form describing eligibility requirements and  
8 informing each student that he or she may return the completed  
9 form in person or by mail to the elections official of the county in  
10 which the student resides *or to the Secretary of State*.

11 (c) *The Secretary of State shall submit to the Legislature, on or*  
12 *before January 1 of each year, a report on its student voter*  
13 *registration efforts pursuant to this article. This report shall include*  
14 *estimates as to how many voter registration forms were sent to*  
15 *high schools, community colleges, and California State University*  
16 *and University of California campuses, and how many voter*  
17 *registration forms were returned.*

18 ~~(e)~~

19 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that every high school and  
20 college student receive a voter registration card with his or her  
21 diploma. It is also the intent of the Legislature that every school  
22 do all in its power to ensure that students are provided the  
23 opportunity and means to register to vote. This may include  
24 providing voter registration forms at the start of the school year,  
25 including voter registration forms with orientation materials,  
26 placing voter registration forms at central locations, and including  
27 voter registration forms with graduation materials.